

REMARKS

The office action of October 21, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

To summarize the status of this application, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-12 and 14-17 are pending. Claims 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (U.S. Patent No. 1,806,075). Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art Fig. 5 in view of Martin. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art Fig. 5. Fig. 1 was objected to because it was not designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--.

In response, a new Figure 1 labeled --Prior Art-- is provided with this response.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the pending claims. The claims of the invention recite a one-piece traction pin that is a non-hollow structure, that is, the recited traction pin does not have the prior art hollow interior, as shown in Martin. The present application identifies the known problems associated with a hollow interior for a traction pin. *See* specification at pages 2 and 4. As an example, there is the known problem with controlling the wall thickness of the hollow pin to avoid stress related failure of the traction pin. Martin teaches a center plate having a hollow pin that would encounter the same known stress related failures. These problems are now overcome by the present invention. The Applicants submit that the present invention is a non-obvious improvement over the problems with the prior art. Because reducing weight is a primary goal of any railway car component design, in the past, one of skill in the art would not look to, as a matter of design choice, simply adding weight to the prior art traction pin casting to overcome the known problems, as in the past this would add the undesirable weight. Thus, filling in the hollow interior of a traction pin casting would not have been an obvious variant to the prior art to overcome the known stress related failures. The present invention has achieved the increase in strength, with the elimination of the stress related failures, without significantly increasing the weight of the traction pin. Consequently, the

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Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are non-obvious over the prior art and, as a result, request the withdrawal of the remaining rejections of all claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all claims are in allowable condition and that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

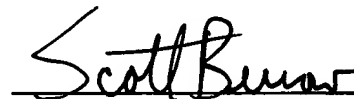
All rejections and objections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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